

Message Text

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FOR CU/WE STRAUS FROM AMERSON

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OEXC, IT

SUBJECT: RAI VISIT CANCELLATION

REF: ROME 13694 (C)

1. FOLLOWING REFTTEL WE LEARNED FROM CHIEF RAI CONTACT THAT IN ADDITION CHANGE OT TOP RAI ADMINISTRATION (BERNABEI RESIGNATION) AND NEW GOVERNMENT CRISIS, SUSPENSION OF PROJECT WAS CAUSED BY DOWNBEAT REMARKS ON TRIP PREPARATION WHICH RAI NEW YORK DIRECTOR RENATO PACHETTI HAD PICKED UP IN U.S. PACHETTI IS ALLEGED TO HAVE TOLD RAI OFFICIALS HERE THAT QUOTE PEOPLE IN U.S. UNQUOTE WERE NOT ENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT PROJECT AND HAD DONE LITTLE TO PREPARE FOR VISIT OF RAI OFFICIALS. THE IMPLICATION WAS THAT THE U.S. WAS UNPREPARED TO PROVIDE MEAININGFUL PROGRAMS AND THAT PROJECTED TRIP WAS MAINLY SUPPORTED BY MISSION IN ROME AND BY OUR CHIEF RAI CONTACT, DR. PAOLO CASTELLI, DIRECTOR, CENTRAL SECRETARIAT AND RESEARCH OFFICE. MOTIVE FOR PACHETTI STORY UNKNOWN.

2. SINCE THIS REPORT FROM NEW YORK APPEARS TO HAVE PLAYED IMPORTANT, PERHAPS PREDOMINANT, PART IN RAI DECISION, EFFECTIVE REBUTTAL IS CRITICAL FOR SEVERAL REASONS. FIRST, IT PUTS U.S. IN EXCEEDINGLY BAD LIGHT. SECOND, IT BADLY

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SCREDITS DR. CASTELLI, WHO HAS GIVEN INSTINTINGLY OF HIS

PRESTIGE, LABOR AND ENTHUSIASM IN BOTH THE PREPARATION FOR RAI TRIP AND IN ASSURING SUCCESS OF LAST YEAR'S EXCELLENT RAI SEMINAR. FINALLY, REBUTTAL IMPORTANT TO KEEP ALIVE SOME CHANGE OF RESCHEDULING PROJECT AT LATER DATE.

3. TO ACCOMPLISH THESE ENDS, AND, IN GENERAL, AID IN DAMAGE CONTROL ON PROJECT'S SUSPENSION, DR. CASTELLI AND WE WOULD DEEPLY APPRECIATE EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATION FROM WASHINGTON INDICATING HIGH INTEREST FOR THIS PROJECT IN U.S., SUBSTANTIAL NATURE OF PREPARATION ALREADY LAID ON, AND DISPPPOINTMENT IN U.S. CAUSED BY CANCELLATION AND LOST OPPORTUNITY FOR HIGH-LEVEL CULTURAL DIALOGUE BETWEEN LEADERS IN AN IMPORTANT SECTOR OF BOTH SOCIETIES. WARM LETTER FROM YOU TO RAI PRESIDENT PROFESSION UMBERTO DELLE FAVE EXPRESSING SORROW AT NEWS, HOPES FOR A LATER FULLFILLMENT OF THE PROJECT, AND REPORTING THE ENTHUSIASM (AND SOME DETAIL OF ARRANGEMENTS FOR CONFERENCE) OF BOTH US OFFICIALS AND PRIVATE INDIVIDUALS WHO HAD HOPED TO IMPLEMENT THIS PROJECT WOULD BE MOST HELPFUL AND MIGHT BE CRUCIAL IN KEEPING PROJECT ON THE BURNER. BEAUDRY

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